



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
CALIFORNIA DIVISION  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724  
December 4, 2001

IN REPLY REFER TO  
HDA-CA  
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Mr. Jeff Morales, Director  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500  
For Rambabu Bavirisetty

Dear Mr. Morales:

**SUBJECT: TCAG 2000/01 FTIP Amendment No. 5**

We have completed our review of the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) Amendment No. 5 to its 2000/01 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) submitted by your letter dated June 26, 2001. This amendment was adopted by TCAG on May 21, 2001.

We accept this TCAG amendment in accordance with 23 CFR 450 and find that the amendment was developed based on a continuing, cooperative, comprehensive transportation planning process in accordance with 23 USC 134 and Section 5303 of the Federal Transit Act (49 USC 53). The changes made to the program by this amendment are exempt from the requirement that a conformity determination be performed. Therefore, we find this FTIP to conform with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP).

This finding has been coordinated with the regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Region Nine office of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in accordance with the procedures outlined on the Memorandum of Understanding, dated March 8, 1996, on single mode FTIP amendments.

This letter also constitutes approval and inclusion of TCAG's FTIP Amendment No. 5 into California's 2000/01 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

Our review of the amendment indicated that the project data for the proposed program modifications have not been entered into the California Transportation Improvement Program System (CTIPS) database. Our approval of the State's FY 2000/01 to 2002/03 FSTIP on October 6, 2000, noted the importance of the California Department of Transportation continuing to work with the transportation planning agencies to ensure that CTIPS reflect complete and accurate data on programmed projects. We continue to believe that CTIPS, when used properly, offers a practical and effective programming tool for streamlining the programming process and

enhancing the development and dissemination of program information. We recognize that unusual circumstances may occasionally arise that prohibit the entry of program data into the CTIPS database prior to the FSTIP modification request, however, we would expect the processing of amendments under these circumstances to be the exception rather than the rule. We encourage you to share our concerns regarding the lack of project information in CTIPS for these FSTIP amendments with the TCAG. To minimize delays in the FSTIP Amendment approval process, in those instances where the project data has not been entered into CTIPS, we encourage both Caltrans and the responsible regional planning agency to describe, in the request for the approval of the amendment, the circumstances that have prohibited the project data entry into the CTIPS database.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Dennis A. Scovill*

For  
Michael G. Ritchie  
Division Administrator

cc:

TCAG FTIP Binder w/ Attachments

FSTIP Binder

FTA, Paul Page

EPA, Karina O'Connor

TCAG

Caltrans:

Federal Resource, Dick Petrie

Office of Local Programs, Terry Abbott

Transportation Programming, Rambabu Bavirisetty (Fax: 916-654-2738)